IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3, 7-12 and 17-22, without prejudice, as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Please amend claims 4, 13, 14, 16, 23, 26 and 28 as follows:

4.   (Twice Amended) An image processing device operable in a plurality of modes of operation, comprising:

a memory for storing image data of a plurality of frames;

a state decision controller for determining a state of said image data stored in said memory for each frame;

an operation panel for selecting any of said plurality of modes of operation; and

a selection prohibiting controller for <u>comparing the state of at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for</u> automatically prohibiting selecting an inoperable mode of operation of said plurality of modes of operation through said operation panel based on the [thus determined state of said image data] <u>result of said comparison</u>.

13.   (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus operable in a plurality of print modes, comprising:

a memory for storing image data of a plurality of frames;

2

a printer for reading said image data stored in said memory for each frame and for printing;

a state decision controller for determining a state of said image data stored in said memory;

an operation panel for selecting any of said plurality of print modes; and

a selection prohibiting controller for comparing the state of at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for automatically prohibiting selecting an inoperable print mode of said plurality of print modes through said operation panel based on the [thus determined state of said image data] result of said comparison.

14. (Twice Amended) An image forming device in accordance with claim 13, further comprising a finisher for stapling sheets printed by said printer, wherein:

said state decision controller determines whether said image data stored in said memory includes image data having a frame size different than a frame size of other image data stored in said memory; and

said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting a staple print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said memory includes image data having a frame size different than a frame size of other image data stored in said memory,

said staple print mode being provided so that said finisher provides a staple processing.

16. (Twice Amended) An image forming device in accordance with claim 13, wherein:

3

said state decision controller determines whether said image data stored in said memory all have a same frame size; and

said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting an economy print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said image data stored in said memory do not all have a same frame size, said economy print mode being provided for printing said image data of a plurality of frames on one same side of a sheet.

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23.   (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus operable in a plurality of print modes, comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of print jobs, each print job containing image data of at least [one frame] two frames;

a print-job selector for selecting one of said plurality of print jobs stored in said memory;

a state decision controller for determining a state of said image data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector;

a printer for printing said image data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector;

an operation panel for selecting any of said plurality of print modes; and

a selection prohibiting controller for comparing the state of at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for automatically prohibiting selecting an inoperable print mode of said plurality of print modes through said operation panel based on the [thus determined state of said image data

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[contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector] result of said comparison.

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26.   (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein said print job selected by said print-job selector contains image data of a plurality of frames and said state decision controller determines whether said image data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector all have a same frame size; and

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wherein said selection prohibiting controller prohibits selecting an economy print mode through said operation panel when it is determined that said image data contained in said print job selected by said print-job selector do not all have a same frame size, said economy print mode being provided for printing said image data of a plurality of frames on same one side of a sheet.

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28.   (Amended) An image processing device operable in a plurality of modes of operation, comprising:

    a memory for storing image data of a plurality of frames;

    a state decision controller for determining a state of said image data for each frame stored in said memory;

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    a selection prohibiting controller, responsive to said state decision controller, for comparing the state of at least two frames, as determined by the state decision controller, and for determining an inoperable mode of operation of said plurality of modes of